GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:369
ANSWERED ON:11.08.2016
Corruption in Maintenance of NHs
Dhotre Shri Sanjay Shamrao;Mahtab Shri Bhartruhari

Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the established criteria/ norms have been followed by the Government in declaring the Roads/ Highways as National Highways (NHs) and if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether the Government has received requests from various States for upgradation of State Roads/Highways as National Highways during the last three years and if so, the details thereof along with the action taken/being taken by the Government on such requests so far, State/ UT-wise;

(c) whether cases of irregularities/ corruption in maintenance of such NHs have come to the notice of the Government during the said period; and

(d) if so, the details thereof, State/UT-wise and NH-wise along with the remedial measures taken/being taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS

(SHRI NITIN JAIRAM GADKARI)

(a) to (d) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (d) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 369 ANSWERED ON 11.08.2016 ASKED BY SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB AND SHRI SANJAY DHOTRE REGARDING CORRUPTION IN MAINTENANCE OF NHS

(a) State roads are declared as new National Highways (NHs) from time to time on the basis of well established principles; the criteria for State roads for declaration as new NHs include roads running through length / breadth of the country, connecting adjacent countries, National Capitals with State Capitals / mutually the State Capitals, major ports, non-major ports, large industrial centers or tourist centers, roads meeting very important strategic requirement in hilly and isolated area, arterial roads which enable sizeable reduction in travel distance and achieve substantial economic growth thereby, roads which help opening up large tracts of backward area and hilly regions (other than strategically important ones), achieving a National Highways grid of 100 km, etc.

(b) The Ministry keeps on receiving proposals for declaration of State roads as new NHs from various State Governments which are examined keeping in view the requirement of connectivity, inter-se-priority and availability of funds. The Ministry has declared about 20,486 km length of State roads/routes as new NHs in the country during the last three years and the current year. The State/UT-wise details of such new NHs is annexed.

Further, the Ministry has approved "In-Principle" declaration of about 42,835 km length of State roads as new NHs subject to outcome of their Detailed Project Reports (DPRs).

(c) and (d) No cases of irregularities / corruption in maintenance works on NHs, including such works on newly declared NHs, have been reported during the last three years and the current year. However, whenever any complaints of irregularities/ corruption in works on NHs come to the notice of the Government, detailed investigations are carried out in such cases and disciplinary actions are taken up in accordance with Central Vigilance Commission guidelines; further, necessary actions are also taken up towards execution of rectifications / corrective works as per the provisions of the Contract / Concession Agreements.

Various initiatives taken towards prevention of corruption and bringing in more transparency and accountability in highway sector include adoption of Integrity Pact, engagement of National Level Project Monitors (NLPMs), etc.